

# FINANCIAL TIMES

Visual Arts

## Snapshot: Pierre Jahan at the Gitterman Gallery, New York

The images showcase the late French photographer's remarkable ability to merge reportage and Surrealism



'La mort et les statues — Rome capitale' (1941) by Pierre Jahan

**Madeleine Pollard** – DECEMBER 7, 2019

Taken in 1941 by the late French photographer Pierre Jahan, the photos in *La mort et les statues* are like something from a bad dream. Dismembered statues and gargoyles appear against an incongruous background of industrial machinery, plunging the viewer into a world of shadow and stone.

Jahan produced the prints in Nazi-occupied Paris, where sculptures had been seized from their public perches to be melted down for metals to aid Germany's war effort. These grotesque figures seem to emit a silent expression of pain for the surrendered city.

The images showcase Jahan's remarkable ability to merge reportage and Surrealism, a slippage he described as "a kind of drift similar to dreaming".

*'Pierre Jahan' is showing at the Gitterman Gallery, New York, to January 18*